

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 200385

FOLLOWING REPEAT COLOMBO 2862 ACTION SECSTATE 10 AUG 76

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2862

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,PINT,CE

SUBJECT: DOMESTIC STATEMENTS ON NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

1. SUMMARY: TWO STATEMENTS HAVE COME OUT IN RECENT DAYS WHICH PARALLEL ON DOMESTIC LEVEL STRUGGLE GOING ON WITHIN NAM TO MAP ITS FUTURE COURSES OF ACTION. STRUGGLE IS BASICALLY BETWEEN THOSE WHO VIEW NAM AS NEUTRAL ALTERNATIVE TO MEMBERSHIP IN POWER BLOCS AND THOSE WHO SUPPORT ALIGNMENT WITH COMMUNIST BLOC. LOCAL CUMMUNIST PARTY/MOSCOW WING (CP/M) MEMBER OF SRI LANKA'S COALITION GOVERNMENT,ISSUED MANIFESTO AUGUST 8 PRAISING CONFERENCE BUT STRONGLY CRITICIZING TENDENCY OF SOME COUNTRIES TO TREAT USA AND USSR ON EQUAL FOOTING AS ALIGNED POWERS AND SIMILAR LUMPING OF ALL RICH NATIONS TOGETHER (INCLUDING BOTH SUPERPOWERS) IN DISTINCTION TO POOR, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. REPRESENTING OTHER MORE MOERATE VIEWS OF PURPOSES OF NAM AND MOVEMENT'S FUTURE, PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE GAVE INTERVIEW ON EVE OF CONFERENCE WHICH WAS CARRIED IN LOCAL TABLOID. SHE WAS VAGUE ON SPECIFIC ISSUES BUT STRESSED
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NECESSITY TO HEW STEADFASTLY TO PRINCIPLES OF NON-

ALIGNMENT IN ORDER TO WARD OFF LOSS OF COHESIVENESS AS MOVEMENT CONTINUES TO EXPAND. HER ACTIONS IN RECENT DAYS, SPEAKING LOUDER THAN WORDS, HAVE SUCCEEDED IN CUTTING OFF COMMUNISTS AND EXTREME LEFTIST PARTICIPATION IN FORMULATION OF CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS. SHE HAS CUT OUT CABINET CONSIDERATION OF DRAFTS, BYPASSING COMMUNIST MINISTER, AND HAS ISOLATED REPORTEDLY WITH HELP OF AMBASSADOR NEVILLE KANAKARATNE SEVERAL LEFTIST CABINET MEMBERS WHO DID MAKE IT ONTO DRAFTING COMMITTEES. END SUMMARY.

2. HARD-LINE STATEMENT FROM CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF SRI LANKA CP/M TOOK EXPECTED LINE OF RADICALS IN NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT THAT SOVIET UNION AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ARE ON SIDE OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES. PARTY STATEMENT SHARPLY CRITICIZED THOSE WHO EQUATE THE TWO SUPERPOWERS IN CATEGORY OF "RICH NATIONS" IN OPPOSITION TO "POOR, DEVELOPING, NON-ALIGNED NATIONS".

3. ON SPECIFIC ISSUE OF INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE, CP/M CONTRASTED SUPPOSED ATTITUDES OF US AND USSR, CITING BREZHNEV'S STATEMENT DENYING INDIAN OCEAN BASES AND US DEVELOPMENT OF DIEGO GARCIA.

4. BY CONTRAST, IN INTERVIEW CARRIED AUGUST 6 IN NEW LOCAL TABLOID NEWSPAPER, PRIME MINISTER SIRIMAVO BANDARANAIKE TOOK MORE MODERATE ATTITUDE TOWARD LONG-TERM PURPOSES OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. IN OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO BE EVEN-HANDED, SHE MADE NO REFERENCE TO ANY SPECIFIC COUNTRIES.

5. SHE WAS RELATIVELY UNSPECIFIC ON POLITICAL ISSUES ALTHOUGH IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON THE INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE RESPONDED THAT THE IOPZ HAS BECOME "MORE IMPORTANT AND URGENT", PARTICULARLY SINCE "THE EPICENTRE OF GREAT POWER RIVALRY IN ASIA APPEARS TO BE SHIFTING FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA TO SOUTH ASIA" AFTER "THE DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA LAST

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YEAR."

6. SHE DOWNPLAYED INTRA-NON-ALIGNED DISPUTES (LIBYA-EGYPT, ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA, ETC.) AS MOSTLY TEMPORARY PHENOMENA IRRELEVANT TO THE "FUNDAMENTAL UNITY" OF COUNTRIES COMMITTED TO NON-ALIGNED PRINCIPLES. NEVERTHELESS, SHE EXPRESSED FEAR THAT GROWTH IN MEMBERSHIP MAY MEAN THAT NAM MAY LOSE

ITS DIRECTION AND CHHESIVENESS. TO COMBAT
THIS "WE HAVE TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS STRICT ADHERENCE--
TO THE PRINCIPLES OF NON-ALIGNMENT."

7. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON THREAT TO NAM FROM
POWER BLOCS, SHE RESPONDED BY REACLLING PREVIOUS
"OVERT" HOSTILITY TO MOVEMENT DEMONSTRATED "BY THE
VIEW PREVALENT IN SOME QUARTERS THAT NON-ALIGNMENT
WAS 'IMMORAL' ". NOW, SHE EXPLAINED,OUTSIDERS
HAVE BEEN RECONCILED TO SOME EXTENT "BUT OF COURSE
THERE IS NO ACCEPTANCE OF NON-ALIGNMENT AS SUCH...
ANZIETIES CONTINUE ABOUT ATTEMPTS TO DEFLECT THE
MOVEMENT FROM ITS PROPER NON-ALIGNED COURSE."

8. COMMENT: PRIME MINISTER'S HANDLING OF CONFERENCE
MATTERS WITHIN HER OWN GOVERNMENT POINT OUT HER
DESIRE FOR EVEN-HANDED APPROACH. SHE HAS COMPLETELY
BYPASSED CABINET IN DRAFTING BASIC CONFERENCE
DECLARATIONS, THUS ELIMINATING SOVIET-INSPIRED INPUT
FROM COMMUNIST MINISTER OF HOUSING PIETER KEUNEMAN.
THIS ACTION HAS CAUSED ANGRY COMMENT FROM COMMUNIST
DAILY ATTHA AND CHGRIN AT USSR EMBASSY. SIMILARLY
WHILE SHE HAS FELT CONSTRAINED TO PLACE ON
ECONOMIC DRAFTING COMMITTEE TWO OF HER LEFT-LEANING
CABINETMEMBERS, MINISTER OF TRADE T.B. ILANGRATNE
AND MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES T.B. SUBASINGHE,
THEY HAVE BEEN ISOLATED AND THEIR INFLUENCE MINIMIZED
AT HER INSTRUCTIONS. ACCORIDNG TO RUMOR, THE
INSTRUMENT THROUGH WHICH SHE WORKS HER WILL IN
STYMIEING THEM IS SRI LANKA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE
U.S., NEVILLE KANAKARATNE.
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